



Briefing Note

To: Prime Minister
From: Mary-Liz Power
Date: January 28, 2022
Re: Update on the Trucker Convoy

This note will serve to update you on the latest available information on the trucker convoy, planned to converge on the National Capital Region between January 28 and 29, 2022.

Background

Following the Government of Canada's announcement requiring all truck drivers crossing the border to be fully vaccinated effective January 15, planning for a national event entitled "Freedom Convoy 2022" started on social media, advertised as a fundraiser, which then gained momentum on other platforms. The convoy began on January 22 in various provinces.

Convoy Size

Public reporting on the size of the convoy varies. Based on the latest information provided by the RCMP, about 2000 trucks and 7000 people are expected.

As of midday on January 28, the RCMP have provided the below assessment:

Latest Data (estimates): 2,222+ vehicles and 5,200+ demonstrators

- **Currently downtown: 353 vehicles + 200 demonstrators**
 - 3 semi trucks parked on Wellington St.
 - 350 vehicles from convoy (PPS)
 - 200 demonstrators (150 on Wellington St., 50 on PH)
 - Protestors setting up camp in Confederation Park
- **Enroute arriving today: 1385 vehicles**
 - 150 vehicles (OPP) from 416 convoy
 - 1185 vehicles at various locations on Hwy 20 (SQ)
- **Arriving tomorrow by 12pm: 534 vehicles + unknown vehicles (US-QC) +5,000 demonstrators (AP)**
 - 471 vehicles (West convoy, will depart tomorrow am from Arnprior, ON)
 - 300 people waiting for the West convoy in North Bay, ON
 - 63 vehicles (East convoy, departing tomorrow from Vankleek Hill, ON)
 - QC-US Border Convoy, details unknown, will be joining East Convoy in Vankleek Hill, ON tomorrow
 - Actions Pacifique expecting 5000 demonstrators to cross from Gatineau side to NCR, planning to park on the Gatineau side and travel by foot into the Ottawa area at 1115hrs.
 - Unknown number of demonstrators can be expected from the NCR

- OPS managing rolling road closures in the downtown core to facilitate convoy movement.
- SPVG have advised that the Alexandria Bridge will be closed as of 1800 hrs on 2022-01-28.
- Go Fund Me page currently sits at over \$7.3M
- Open Source posts indicating that participants should protest in front of the US Embassy, given the US has also introduced a vaccine mandate for truckers wishing to cross the Canada-US border. No detailed plan or direct threats related to US Embassy at this time.

Preparations Underway

The City of Ottawa remains the law enforcement lead on this weekend's demonstration.

The key organization coordinating the security response to the convoy is called INTERSECT, the strategic law enforcement and first responder body in Ottawa that will make decisions on the ground. INTERSECT comprises Ottawa Police, CSIS, DND, SQ, OPP, PPS, Gatineau Police, City of Ottawa Emergency Management, Gatineau paramedics, Ottawa paramedics, Ottawa fire, RCMP. Mike Macdonald (Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet for Privy Council Office) serves as a federal public service representative on that board, and is providing information to the political level as required.

There have been several tabletop exercises to game out the worst-case scenario as it relates to this weekend. American counterparts have shared lessons learned from January 6 with Canadian officials, who are working together across federal, provincial and municipal jurisdictions to ensure operational readiness. RCMP, OPP and PPS have made additional resources available to support the Ottawa Police response, and have assured both internally and publicly that there will be a significant law enforcement presence in downtown Ottawa this weekend.

Relatedly, PMO regional desks for Ontario are in touch with counterparts at the City and at the Province to share information, including with police services. Coordination has been constructive thus far.

Ottawa Police Service advice to residents

During their press briefing today, Ottawa's Chief of Police advised that residents should not to visit the capital's downtown core during the protests unless essential for them to do so. Citing communications his team has had with 8 "core" organizers, he said he trusts the "vast majority" of participants will demonstrate peacefully, but has warned that unspecified individuals or groups could try to incite violence. More specifically, Soloy said the OPS, RCMP and OPP are concerned about "lone wolf individuals" and "parallel groups" who may try to incite violence during the demonstrations.

Ministerial Involvement

Chiefs of Staff, PCO representatives and members of the PMO communications and issues management teams have been meeting regularly to discuss issues arising across government relating to the convoy. PCO alongside the Commissioner of the RCMP and the Director of CSIS have led briefings for Ministers Leblanc, Mendicino, Blair and Alghabra over the last two days.

Ministers Mendicino and Alghabra, have done a number of media interviews regarding the vaccine mandate, extremism and increased violence of rhetoric, preparations and called for peaceful protest. Ministers, including Minister Blair, are available this weekend should they be needed for a formal government response, pending an escalation.

Ministerial Security

As you are aware, there has been media attention to the efforts of some members of the convoy to dox Ministers and MPs in the National Capital Region, posting their personal information online and

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planning to stage protests there. Ottawa Police Service, in collaboration with the RCMP, have compiled a list of all these residences and increased presence of officers in the areas.

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The leader of the Official Opposition has noted he will meet with truckers, albeit outside the downtown core. RCMP has advised they will provide him s.38

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Expected Demonstrations

The organizers of the demonstration have not released a clear schedule for the protest, but open source information provides some clarity into their plans.

The route details converge on Parliament Hill. It is unknown at this time if the group will remain on the Hill for the duration of the demonstration or if this will extend to other protected sites. Significant disruptions are expected. Open Source has identified multiple social media posts indicating that other groups might attempt to cause disruptions at various protected sites in the area (ie.24 Sussex, Rideau Hall and Harrington Lake).

Ottawa Police Service has advised that, in addition to the larger demonstration in the downtown core, organizers are planning additional events on Saturday and Sunday in Confederation Park, which will serve as the home base for some participants. Public Speakers are set for 1100hrs on Saturday and a church service is being planned for the same time on Sunday.

National Security/Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism Nexus

There has been an increase in social media posts from users suggesting that violence should be used if the government does not acknowledge the convoy. The RCMP asserts that no substantiated threats or credible plans have been identified at this time.

s.38 have been stood up to monitor the lead up to the protest and the event itself for any signals of violent extremism or terrorist risks.38

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They continue to monitor the situation.

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